

California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Djibouti.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. SASSE. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Fisher and Pratt nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO PAT ROBERTS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President. Senator PAT ROBERTS has dedicated his life to serving the Nation and the people of his home State of Kansas, and I would like to take a moment to recognize his retirement.

During his 40 years of service in the U.S. Congress, Senator ROBERTS has become a leader on agriculture, rural health and education, and defense policy. Senator ROBERTS is the first Member of Congress to chair the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. Through his work on this committee and other, and across Congress, Senator ROBERTS has served with honor and distinction, keeping foremost in mind the interests and needs of Kansans.

PAT has been a true partner on the Agriculture Committee. His methodical approach to bipartisanship mirrors my own efforts when I served a chairman of that committee and worked with Senator Dick Lugar to write and advance farm bills, nutrition laws, and conservation policies. Under PAT's chairmanship, the committee was able to reach a compromise on the 2018 farm bill, allowing for the inclusion of several key policies to enhance rural development, support our farmers, and fund vital nutrition programs. I know from negotiating the 1990 farm bill as committee chairman that reaching a bipartisan and bicameral consensus on such a substantial and sweeping piece

of legislation is no simple task. PAT's leadership through the process showed his deep commitment to providing for the American people.

PAT and I have worked together, and we have traveled together. We often chuckle that there are two bald men named PAT serving in the Senate. While I will miss sharing that chuckle with my friend, I will miss more his partnership and unwavering commitment to advancing responsible policies and practices to support agricultural sectors across the country. PAT and his wife Franki have become friends. Marcelle and I wish them the very best.

TRIBUTE TO CORY GARDNER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, CORY GARDNER may be one of the younger members of the Senate, but he has brought distinction and dedication to his work on behalf of Coloradans. His entire career has been anchored in legislative work, at the Federal and State levels, first as a Senate staffer and then in the Colorado House of Representatives, before his election to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In both the State legislature and in the House of Representatives, he focused primarily on energy and agriculture legislation. He brought these priorities with him to Senate in 2015, through his work on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and Commerce, Justice, and Science Committees. As a Senator, Senator GARDNER has often worked across the aisle to find common ground and deliver for the people of the United States. One recent example was the enactment of the bipartisan Great American Outdoors Act, which became law in August. This landmark bipartisan conservation legislation permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund, supports and creates countless jobs in conservation and outdoor recreation, and protects our country's natural beauty. Through the negotiation and passage of this bill, Senator GARDNER was at the table, trying to reach consensus and bring about meaningful benefits for the American people. That is no easy task and one which is not undertaken often in the Senate these days.

Senator GARDNER will leave the Senate at the end of this Congress, but I know his dedication to public service will remain. Marcelle and I wish Senator GARDNER, his wife Alyson, and the rest of their family the very best in the next chapter of their lives.

TRIBUTE TO DOUG JONES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as a nation, today we find ourselves contemplating the key tenets upon which our country was founded: the importance of truth and equality, the pursuit of justice, and the determination of what is right. DOUG JONES has pursued justice and has fought for equality and for what is right for his entire career.

DOUG is one of the most dedicated, thoughtful and decent public servants I have ever had the privilege to know and work with in my time in the Senate. He leaves the Senate having only furthered that record of public service.

DOUG brought with him to the Senate a passion for civil rights and for resolving prior injustices. As U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Alabama, he fought against entrenched racial injustice. He prosecuted the men responsible for the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church; and indicted domestic terrorist Eric Rudolph. In the Senate, he continued the pursuit of justice as a vocal advocate for greater government transparency and authored legislation that has expanded access to criminal investigation records for civil rights cases, helping families and individuals to resolve injustices after decades of inaction.

I am certain that, even as he leaves the Senate, DOUG will continue to represent and to fight for what is right. His has been an important and uniquely qualified voice for justice voice in the Senate these last few years, and I will miss his sound judgment and thoughtful advocacy. I know his long record of public service will only continue. Marcelle and I wish DOUG and his wife Louise and their entire family all the best.

I have great respect for him. He is one of the most impressive Senators I have served with, and I am so proud of all he has accomplished.

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA MCSALLY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, although MARTHA MCSALLY only joined the Senate in 2019, she has spent decades serving the Nation and the people of the State of Arizona.

She served for decades as a fighter pilot in the U.S. Air Force, in service to our country and to keep Americans safe. Upon her retirement as colonel from the Air Force, she continued her career as a public servant by representing Arizona's Second Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives for 4 years before her appointment to the Senate.

In the Senate, as she did in the House, Senator MCSALLY has fought hard to support veterans and has worked to further the interests of Arizonans. Her sense of duty to her country and to her State allowed her to make important contributions to the Senate Armed Services and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committees.

Senator MCSALLY has also been a "neighbor," with our offices both on same floor of the Russell Senate Building. I thank Senator MCSALLY for her service in the Senate, and I wish her the best in the next chapter of her life.

(At the request of Mr. THUNE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)